

[Prisoners for Christ \(web page\)](#)  
Outreach Ministries

**Greg & Rhonda Von Tobel** – Greg is President of PFC

In 1989, Greg Von Tobel began Prisoners for Christ Outreach Ministries (PFC) in the offices of Overlake Christian Church with a vision to bring the redeeming message of the gospel into the jails, prisons, and juvenile centers here in the Northwest, giving inmates the opportunity to know our Savior Jesus Christ. Today, with the motto of “One Cell at a Time”, PFC is in 32 correctional centers in Washington state, 2 in Florida, and multiple international locations (Africa & Asia).

**Some Facts about Prison Ministry**

- America incarcerates more of its citizens per capita than any other nation in the world.
- According to the US Department of Justice, there are today, more than 1.7 million adults who are incarcerated in the jails and prisons of the US. This does not include the 690,000 who are on parole or the 3 million who are on probation.
- Our government reports indicate that 75% of the released prison population is rearrested within four years.
- A recent study conducted by the Billy Graham organization showed that the rate in which individuals return to prison drops 32% if an inmate, while in prison, becomes involved with a bible study or church service at the prison chapel. If an inmate is connected with an outside church within the first year of their release, their rate of returning to prison (this is called recidivism ... new word for the day) decreases by another 10%.

- Those incarcerated in third world prisons are an “unreached people group” not yet identified and sanctioned by modern mission planners. These forgotten inmates are truly the least of the least.
- Inmates in the African prisons listen intently to PFC missionaries, taking notes on the palms of their hands with ink pens as a means of studying the bible. We should pray that God’s word would forever be written in their hearts!
- Doors for international prison work are wide open and there are pockets of revival breaking out in 3<sup>rd</sup> world prisons. The banquet table in heaven will be lined with the throwaways of the world.
- Many youth cannot hear God’s voice when they are out in the community because drugs, street life, violence, sex and chaos has stifled their ears to God’s voice. When they are suddenly forced into a quiet place...often a cell, the distractions are gone. The chaos of their old life is stripped away and they come face to face with a loving God. It is because of this dynamic that the Correspondence Bible Studies have a tremendous impact on believers behind bars.

### **PFC Strategic Priorities**

- Establish national PFC Prison Ministry Centers in strategic metropolitan areas in America.
- Own and operate an Aftercare Facility.
- Expand number of inmates on the Bible Study Correspondence student roster.
- Increase annual production of tracts.
- Increase volume of “Yard Out” newspapers produced and distributed.
- Increase the number of foreign national missionaries.
- Increase the number of inmates worldwide coming to PFC sponsored church services.
- Increase our volunteer base worldwide.
- Increase total number of Bibles or New Testaments distributed annually.
- Become a world wide leader in prison ministry training.

PFC method for impacting the global prison community for God’s Glory is based on a strategy they’ve coined as “Life **VEST**”

- **Visit** – Proclaiming the Gospel to the Incarcerated
  - Worship services
  - One-on-one
  - Concerts & Events
  - Bible study
  - Pen pals
- **Equip** – To prepare God’s People for works of service
  - Mentoring
  - Yard Out
  - Bible Study correspondence school
  - Literature distribution
- **Support** – Offering hope by connecting families
  - Family van transportation

- **Transition** – Building bridges for a productive return to society
  - Aftercare programs
  - Church connections

### **Some 2009 PFC Statistics**

- 148,000 inmates received Christ (salvations).
- 500,000 inmates were in attendance at PFC various services and programs.
- 1800 inmates were involved in Bible Correspondence School. The goal is to double that to 3600 inmates in three years.
- 557 individuals took advantage of the van transportation

### **Standing Stones Ministries**

In 2005, PFC opened a faith-based, Christ-centered Northwest Transitional Living (NWTL) center “providing a healthy environment where individuals struggling with drug and alcohol dependencies could successfully deal with the issues that have impacted their lives. NWTL is a regeneration ministry combining biblical classroom teaching, job work ethics therapy, and family reconciliation.” The center, known as Standing Stones Ministries is “nestled in the foothills of the Cascade Mountains in Eastern Washington. This 40 acre orchard produces apples, cherries, pears and peaches. The name is taken from the two instances in the Bible where the Lord instructed the nation of Israel to erect stones as a “lasting” testimony to future generations that God had done something incredible in their midst. The men who successfully complete the program are modern day “living” Standing Stones; a lasting testimony that the Lord is still in the miracle business today, redeeming lives previously racked by drug and alcohol.”

### **Prayer Requests**

Pray for ongoing ministry trips to central Africa (Rwanda, Kenya, Burundi, and Uganda) for the building up of leadership skills amongst the PFC native missionaries and helping them to expand their ministry vision.

In 2011, PFC will be making ministry trips to Russia, Ghana, India, and Nepal.

In regards the Standing Stones Ministries (Clean and Sober Home):

- Pray for the Lord to use the Program Director, Dave Garton, to help the men in the program open their hearts fully to Christ so that they can be healed of their addictions.
- Pray for Men’s Work Parties: SSM especially needs men to come on weekends from March to June to saw up about 2,000 apple trees so they can sell the wood to restaurants and campgrounds to provide revenue for SSM.

Pray specially for Greg:

- For the Lord to renew his strength and protect his health.
- For him to be closely attuned to the Lord and follow His leading as he makes decisions.
- For preparations required various ministry trips overseas.

- For meetings with Church Leader Liaisons regarding keeping the local churches informed about the work being done at PFC
- For ministry fundraising to be effective.

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March 27, 2011 Greg presenting ministry at Christ's Church



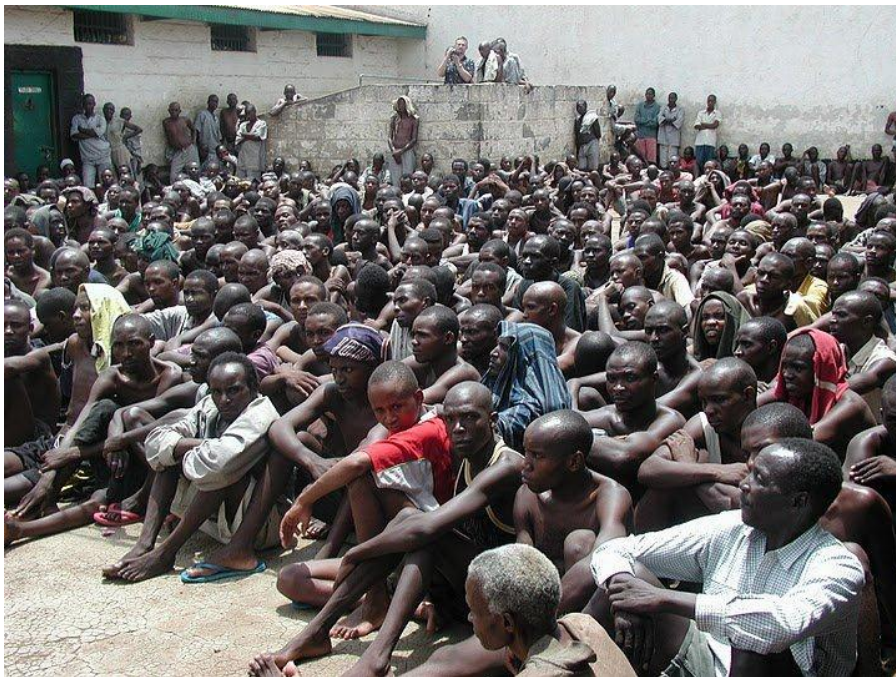
Kent Regional Justice Center



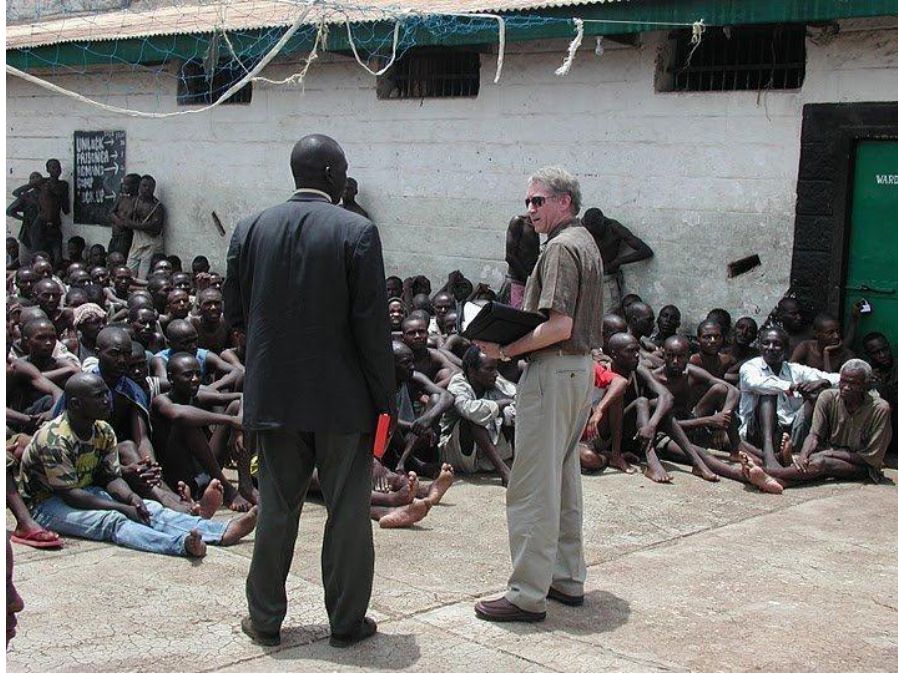
Kent Regional Justice Center



Brundi Prison



Kenya - Thika Prison



Tom Lathrop speaking at Thika Prison in Kenya



Women's Prison in Kenya



Manila – Rizal Provincial Jail



Greg traveling for PFC



Standing Stones Ministry – outside Wapato, eastern Washington State

Updated: March 2011